

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 593

BY SENATOR ADLEY

PUBLIC RECORDS. Provides relative to records of the governor. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 44:5, relative to public records; to provide for the application of public records law to records of the office of the governor; to provide exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 44:5 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§5. Records of the office of the governor

A. ~~This Chapter shall not apply to any records having been used, being in use, possessed, or retained for use by the governor in the usual course of the duties and business of his office relating to the deliberative process of the governor, intra-office communications of the governor and his internal staff, the governor's security and schedule, or communications with or the security and schedule of the governor's spouse or children.~~ The legislature recognizes that it is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that public business be performed in an open and public manner, and that the citizens be advised of and aware of the performance of public officials and the deliberations and decisions that go into making of public policy. Toward this end, the provisions of this Section, as well

1 as the rest of this Chapter, shall be construed liberally so as to facilitate rather
2 than hinder access to public records.

3 B. (1) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, the provisions of this~~
4 ~~Section shall not apply to any agency, office, or department transferred or placed~~
5 ~~within the office of the governor.~~ Records of the office of the governor shall be
6 public records and shall be subject to the provisions of this Chapter.

7 (2) ~~Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, a record limited to~~
8 ~~pre-decisional advice and recommendations to the governor concerning budgeting~~
9 ~~in the custody of any agency or department headed by an unclassified gubernatorial~~
10 ~~appointee shall be privileged for six months from the date such record is prepared.~~
11 Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, a record of the office of the
12 governor relating to executive deliberations of the governor and intra-office
13 communications of the governor and his staff shall be privileged from
14 disclosure. For purposes of this Paragraph:

15 (a) "Deliberations" means the process by which decisions and policies
16 are formulated.

17 (b) Records "relating to executive deliberations of the governor" include
18 all forms of pre-decisional advice, opinions, planning and consideration, or
19 recommendations made for the purpose of assisting the governor in the usual
20 course of the duties and business of his office.

21 (3) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, any record of the
22 office of the governor pertaining to the schedule of the governor, his spouse, or
23 his child that contains security details that if made public may impair the safety
24 of the governor, his spouse, or his child may be held confidential. However,
25 nothing in this Paragraph shall be interpreted or construed in a manner to
26 make confidential all records concerning a meeting or event that the governor
27 attends and transportation related thereto. The governor may keep a record
28 concerning a meeting or event that the governor attends and transportation
29 related thereto privileged for a period not to exceed seven days after the

1 occurrence of the meeting or event.

2 (4) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to
3 the records of any agency transferred or placed within the office of the governor
4 or to the records of any other executive branch agency.

5 (5) For purposes of this Subsection, "office of the governor" shall mean
6 the governor, his chief of staff, and his executive counsel.

7 C. The provisions of Subsection B of this Section shall not prevent any
8 person from inspecting, examining, and copying, or obtaining a reproduction of
9 any records record pertaining to any money or monies, any assets or items of
10 economic value to the state, or any financial transactions in the control of or
11 handled by or through the governor or the office of the governor.

12 D. ~~For purposes of this Section:~~

13 ~~(1) "Deliberative process" means the process by which decisions and policies~~
14 ~~are formulated.~~

15 ~~(2) "Internal staff of the governor" means the governor, chief of staff,~~
16 ~~executive counsel, director of policy, and employees under their supervision. Internal~~
17 ~~staff shall not mean any person employed in any other executive agency, including~~
18 ~~those designated by state law as housed in or transferred to the office of the~~
19 ~~governor.~~

20 ~~(3) Records "relating to the deliberative process of the governor" means all~~
21 ~~forms of pre-decisional advice, opinions, deliberations, or recommendations made~~
22 ~~for the purpose of assisting the governor in the usual course of the duties and~~
23 ~~business of his office. The governor and his internal staff shall preserve all~~
24 records to which this Section is applicable and at the conclusion of his term of
25 office, the governor shall transfer all such records to the custody of the archives
26 division of the secretary of state. The exemption for such records shall continue
27 in accordance with Subsection E of this Section. For purposes of this
28 Subsection, "internal staff" of the governor includes the chief of staff, executive
29 counsel, director of policy, legislative director, director of communications,

director of boards and commissions, special assistants to the governor, and members of their staffs, but shall not include any employee of any other agency, department, or office.

~~E. Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter, the state police shall maintain a travel log identifying the date and location of all travel by the governor in a state police helicopter, which record shall be available for inspection and copying in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. Entries to the state police helicopter travel log shall be made within seven days after the date of travel. **Any exemption granted by this Section shall lapse ten years after the creation of the record to which the exemption is applicable.**~~

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement, Jr.

DIGEST

Present law provides that ~~present law~~ does not apply to any records having been used, being in use, possessed, or retained for use by the governor in the usual course of the duties and business of his office relating to the deliberative process of the governor, intra-office communications of the governor and his internal staff, the governor's security and schedule, or communications with or the security and schedule of the governor's spouse or children.

Proposed law deletes these provisions of present law, and further provides expressly that records of the office of the governor are public records and subject to the provisions of present law.

Proposed law provides notwithstanding proposed law, a record of the office of the governor relating to executive deliberations of the governor and intra-office communications of the governor and his staff are be privileged from disclosure. For purposes of proposed law:

- (1) "Deliberations" means the process by which decisions and policies are formulated.
- (2) Records "relating to executive deliberations of the governor" include all forms of pre-decisional advice, opinions, planning and consideration, or recommendations made for the purpose of assisting the governor in the usual course of the duties and business of his office.

Proposed law provides that any record of the office of the governor pertaining to the

schedule of the governor, his spouse, or his child that contains security details that if made public may impair the safety of the governor, his spouse, or his child may be held confidential. Proposed law further provides that nothing in proposed law is to be interpreted or construed in a manner to make confidential all records concerning a meeting or event that the governor attends and transportation related thereto. Proposed law further provides that the governor may keep a record concerning a meeting or event that the governor attends and transportation related thereto privileged for a period not to exceed seven days after the occurrence of the meeting or event.

Proposed law provides that proposed law does not apply to the records of any agency transferred or placed within the office of the governor or to the records of any other executive branch agency.

Proposed law provides that "office of the governor" means the governor, his chief of staff, and his executive counsel.

Present law provides that present law does not prevent any person from examining and copying any records pertaining to any money or monies or any financial transactions in the control of or handled by or through the governor.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that proposed law does not prevent any person from also inspecting or obtaining a reproduction of any record pertaining to any money or monies, any assets or items of economic value to the state, or any financial transactions in the control of or handled by or through the governor or the office of the governor.

Proposed law provides that the governor and his internal staff are to preserve all records to which proposed law applies and at the conclusion of his term of office, the governor is to transfer all such records to the custody of the archives division of the secretary of state. Proposed law further provides that the exemption for such records continues in accordance with proposed law. Proposed law provides that "internal staff" of the governor includes the chief of staff, executive counsel, director of policy, legislative director, director of communications, director of boards and commissions, special assistants to the governor, and members of their staffs, but does not include any employee of any other agency, department, or office.

Proposed law provides that any exemption granted by proposed law lapses 10 years after the creation of the record to which the exemption is applicable.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 44:5)